

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a componentized user interface for one or more computer applications, at least one of which is capable of performing one or more functions, the method comprising:

~~(a) providing displaying~~ a first set of interface elements ~~with provided by~~ a framework;

~~(b) providing displaying~~ a second set of interface elements ~~with provided by~~ a first plug-in that is linked to the framework;

~~(c) providing displaying~~ a third set of interface elements ~~with provided by~~ a second plug-in that is linked to the framework; and

~~(d) hosting the first plug-in and the second plug-in with a shell linked to the framework; and~~

(e) providing an interface between the ~~shell~~ one or more applications and the first plug-in and between the ~~shell~~ one or more applications and the second plug-in with a shell adapter interface, in order to utilize the second set of interface elements and the third set of interface elements, wherein the shell adapter interface maps ~~functions~~ interface elements of the first plug-in and ~~functions~~ interface elements of the second plug-in to functions of the ~~shell~~ one or more applications.

2. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first plug-in comprises:

(i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the first plug-in; and

(ii) a second file that is written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

3. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the menu elements are selected from ~~[[the]] a group consisting of~~ comprising a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

4. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the second plug-in comprises:

(i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the second plug-in; and

(ii) a second file that is written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

5. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the menu elements are selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group ~~consisting of~~ comprising a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

6. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the framework is configured to discover the first plug-in and the second plug-in.

7. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the framework further comprises a user interface component loader to load the first plug-in and the second plug-in.

8. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in an extensible markup language (XML).

9. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

10. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in an extensible markup language (XML).

11. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein both the second set and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for ~~the same~~ a first application.

14. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the second set of interface elements comprises interface elements for a first application and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for a second application that is different from the first application.

15. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method of providing extensibility to a user interface for one or more computer applications, at least one of which is capable of performing one or more functions, the method comprising:

(a) providing a framework, the framework comprising a first set of interface elements and a user interface component loader, the framework configured to discover a plug-in located in a plug-in directory;

(b) loading the plug-in with the user interface component loader, the plug-in to provide a second set of interface elements;

(c) ~~hosting the plug-in with a shell linked to the framework;~~ and

(d) providing an interface between the ~~shell~~ one or more applications and the plug-in with a shell adapter ~~interface~~ in order to utilize the second set of interface elements, wherein the shell adapter ~~interface~~ maps ~~functions~~ interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the ~~shell~~ one or more applications.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the plug-in comprises:

(i) a first file that provides an interface between the framework and the plug-in; and

(ii) a second file that is written in a markup language and that includes menu elements.

17. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the menu elements are selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group ~~consisting of~~ comprising a toolbar, a status bar, and a menu bar.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in an extensible markup language (XML).

19. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the first file comprises an executable file and the second file comprises information written in a standard generalized markup language (SGML).

20. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the framework is configured to provide the first set of interface elements for a plurality of applications.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

(e) loading a second plug-in with the user interface component loader, the second plug-in to provide a third set of interface elements;

(f) ~~hosting the second plug-in with [[a]] the shell linked to the framework;~~ and

(g) providing an interface between the ~~shell~~ one or more applications and the second plug-in with a second shell adapter ~~interface~~ in order to utilize the third set of interface elements.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein both the second set and the third set of interface elements comprise interface elements for ~~the same~~ a first application.

23. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the second set of interface elements comprises interface elements for a first application and the third set of

interface elements comprise interface elements for a second application that is different from the first application.

24. (Canceled)

25 (Canceled)

26. (New) A computer storage medium bearing instructions, which, when executed, carry out a method for generating a componentized user interface for a plurality of computer applications or hosting environments, at least one of which is capable of performing one or more functions, the method comprising:

providing a first set of interface elements with a user interface framework, the interface elements comprising at least one menu;

providing a second set of interface elements with a plug-in;

providing a first interface between the plug-in and a first computer application or hosting environment, wherein the first interface maps interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the first computer application or hosting environment; and

providing a second interface between the plug-in and a second computer application of hosting environment, wherein the second interface maps interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the second computer application or hosting environment.

27. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 26, further comprising instructions for:

providing a shell adapter interface between the user interface framework and the first interface and the second interface, whereby the framework is configured to provide the first set of interface elements in conjunction with the first computer application or hosting environment and the second computer application or hosting environment.